

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2009

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Saint Louis Zoo 314/781-0900
Janet Powell, ext. 4633
Christy Childs, ext. 4639
Joanna Bender, ext. 4703

SAINT LOUIS ZOO ONE OF TOP THREE ZOOS FOR KIDS, SAYS PARENTS MAGAZINE

Parents magazine today revealed the exclusive findings from its first-ever 10 Best Zoos for Kids survey. The Saint Louis Zoo was named one of the top three.

“We are very proud to be recognized as a great place for children to learn about nature and to have fun,” said Dr. Jeffrey P. Bonner, Dana Brown President and CEO of the Saint Louis Zoo. “We want to foster an interest in nature for kids that will last them the rest of their lives.”

The results are the culmination of a three-month study which examined 50 zoos nationwide. *Parents* focused on honoring zoos that offer a variety of hands on, family-friendly activities while fostering appreciation, knowledge and excitement about the natural world. The results of this survey will appear in the May 2009 issue of *Parents* magazine on newsstands nationwide April 14, 2009.

According to the *Parents* survey, the 10 Best Zoos for Kids are:

1. **Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo, Florida**
2. **Brookfield Zoo, Illinois**
3. **Saint Louis Zoo, Missouri**
4. **Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, Pennsylvania**
5. **Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo, Indiana**
6. **San Antonio Zoo & Aquarium, Texas**
7. **Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Ohio**
8. **San Diego Zoo, California**
9. **Houston Zoo, Texas**
10. **Bronx Zoo, New York City**

Zoos are ranked based on their responses to detailed questions about their facilities. The questions focused on: accessibility of animal encounter exhibits for children, exclusivity of the exhibits, zoo shows, educational programs, staffing, zoo transportation, restaurant services and admission prices.

“Introducing children to nature at an early age is so important,” says Dana Points, editor-in-chief of *Parents*. “It sparks their imagination, inspires appreciation of a world beyond their own backyard and helps teach conservation. All of the zoos on our list are dedicated to affordable family fun while ensuring that a day trip feels like a globetrotting adventure.”

In addition to the 10 Best Zoos for Kids featured in the magazine, 15 runners-up are posted on www.parents.com/topzoos.

About Saint Louis Zoo

The Saint Louis Zoo is widely recognized for its innovative approaches to animal management, wildlife conservation, research and education. One of the few free zoos in the nation, it attracts about 3,000,000 visitors a year. The Zoo's web site is www.stlzoo.org.

About Parents:

Parents, published monthly by Meredith Corporation, has been America's #1 family magazine for more than 80 years. Since its inception in 1926, it has been a trusted source by every generation of parents. Currently, the magazine is a powerful community of 15.6 million readers devoted to supporting the efforts of parents, educators and other citizens who strive to make the world a better place for our children. *Parents* can be found online at www.parents.com.

###